



## ***What's the Big Deal—Why Evangelize Lost People?***

By Kurt von Schleicher

How lost are the lost anyway? How real and how hot is that place called Hell? How long will unbelievers even be there? What if I don't feel like talking to others about spiritual matters like some Jesus Freak? How much authority does Jesus really have?

The lost are WAY lost and needy. Hell is very real—more real than your video lame game! It's never a party place where your friends will enjoy kicking it. The flames are very HOT. Sinners and fallen angels won't ever come out of there. God is fair, Just and Holy, but He won't make people want to go to heaven and won't force them to be there in His loving presence.

***"Evangelism is about experiencing God. If you choose to be obedient, He will take you on a journey so exciting that your life will never be the same."***

—Bill Fay

Here's why we go evangelize the lost: Jesus commanded, ***"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age"*** (Matthew 28:18-20). Love mandates we don't sit there on our blessed assurance and do nothing as people are dying!

If you were to ask your *sound* church pastor what he desires of the members there, one of his responses would most assuredly be that he wants all the Christians to be wise soul-winners. He has others in mind. His main desire will not be driven by a hope for a bigger tithing crowd on Sunday mornings, but by the command Jesus has given all of us to do that very thing. Christians and churches grow and benefit spiritually from witnessing, but more important than that, sinners need to be benefited and there is little time to help them!

Let's remember back how we felt and what it was like for you and I when we were still in our sins, Christian. At some point in our lives, someone came by and told us about Jesus Christ. They probably shared some Scriptures and made us aware of our HUGE need for Him to be our Savior. They taught us specifically what we needed to know and do until we decided that we would accept God's free Gift as our very own. Jesus somehow gave that joyous person the

courage and authority to tell us about the bad news of our situation, sin and destiny and then the Good News of the Gospel. What did they say when you started to feel convicted of your sinful lifestyle. Did they bring up any of the Ten Commandments that you had broken? How did they teach you about the lovely Person of Christ and the basics of starting a relationship with Him? God can give you the same courage and authority to do the same for someone else! He gives us this desire at the moment we become His. This is not a Gospel Message reserved for the pastor alone. No, no! It is a Message for all God's children to fearlessly share with all the lost people in the world ...one by one, by one as God leads us to them.

In this Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20), Jesus told us to win the lost. He saves people, we don't, but He still wants to use you in this as His witness. A witness doesn't have to prove anything, or change anyone. They are merely called upon to tell others what they have experienced firsthand. Christ didn't say, "I really wish you would turn off that TV and get around to this" or "It would be so cool if you leave that video game alone and go do this" He simply said, "Go" so how can we say "no"? If Jesus is our Lord and Master, and we are His bond-slave-servants, we will do what He commands us to do without talking back to Him, ignoring Him or making sham excuses.

Many Christians feel fearful of rejection, of failing the Lord, but we don't have to be frightened at all, because He has given us the authority to do this task. We go in His power, in His Love, in His Spirit and with His stamp of approval. The gates of Hell can not prevail upon us.

Many feel under fed, under trained, under prepared and under-qualified to witness. Maybe they are not properly taught, but they can still learn if they ditch their dead religious church and start attending a decent Christ-exalting Bible teaching church. They can learn if they are saved, have a Bible, can pray and practice. Lifestyle evangelism, initiative evangelism, and all the other types of evangelism are a lot of fun to take part in if you have decent friends who are effective in this. Do you have a pastor who likes to witness outside the four walls? Do you regularly see teary eyed sinners joyously repenting and coming to Christ at your church? What's whacked about that?

Many Christians feel guilty because they are guilty. Many feel somewhat reticent when you mention the idea of "soul-winning." They think this was merely a thing of the past that hell-fire and brimstone Baptist preachers used to do to scare people and make them have a poor self esteem. The great news is that witnessing is not merely a thing of the past and we don't have to be scared! Three hundred and sixty five times the Bible tells us to fear not. That's once for every day of the year. It SO is for today and it can be done right as Jesus leads! Christ as given us the authority and enabling to do what He has commanded us to do. With His call comes His enabling! He has empowered us to be able to carry out our important end-times-assignment! As we learn the Scripture verses we need that can help a lost person understand and come to the point of salvation, the Holy Spirit will help us recall these verses. He can begin to prepare the hearts of people so they will clearly hear what we have to say to them ...as we start to target them in prayer! Yes, the Holy Spirit will do the work. All we have to do is brag on Jesus the most, not on what we do, not on what our church or pastor does, not on what our denomination or church movement does ...not brag on our favorite Christian movies, bands or athletes the most. No we need to talk about Christ, His finished work on the cross, our own salvation and what Jesus really means to us. Who can find someone more beautiful than Him? Jesus has outfitted us Christians to carry out His greatest command and great commission. We are not out there to point out their faults, talk down to them, condemn them, accuse them or reform their behavior. We go out there to pray and see them get saved by Christ who will

change them. We don't go out to try and get them off of drugs, off of cigarettes, off cussing, off their girlfriends and off liqueur ...or somehow clean them up so they will be ready to get saved. No, we just want to lead them to Christ who will clean them up.

***"Less than two percent of believers in this country ever share their faith in Christ with others." —Dr. Bill Bright***

***"You cannot say, 'No, Lord,' and mean both words; one annuls the other!"  
—D. James Kennedy***

***This generation of Christians is responsible for  
this generation of souls on the earth! —Keith Green***

Catherine Booth said, *"You are not here in the world for yourself. You have been sent here for others. The world is waiting for you!"* It is time for us to give heed to Christ's command and commit ourselves to Him 100%. More people need the Lord today than ever before. It starts in prayer! Let's go in His love and authority, as He has empowered us to do. Your obedience will make a difference for your friends and other for all eternity.

### ***Why Fish for Souls?***

Because Jesus said: ***"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"*** (Jn. 14:6 nkjv).

Because God said: ***"I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply"*** (Gen. 35:11).

Because He also said: ***"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."*** (Jn. 3:16-19 nkjv).

Because Paul said: ***"I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes..."*** (Rom. 1:16 nkjv).

And: ***"Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!' ...So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*** (Rom. 10:13-15, 17 nkjv).

And to the Christians in Corinth Paul declared: ***"Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God"*** (1 Cor. 1:17-18 nkjv).

And: *"Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time."* (1 Cor. 15:1-8).

And: *"For if I preach the Gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship"* (1 Cor. 9:16-17 nkjv).

Because the Bible says: *"Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"* (Jn. 4:35 nkjv).

Because Jesus said: *"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest"* (Matt 9:37-38 nkjv).

Because Christ in His important departing words to His disciples said: *"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"* (Acts 1:8 nkjv).

Because the Apostle Peter said: *"Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom stands here you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man before you whole. This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' 'Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved'"* (Acts 4:10-12 nkjv).

### **And why do we want to disciple born again Christians to become better Christians and more effective fishers of people?**

Because Jesus said: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations... teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you"* (Matt. 28:18-20 nkjv).

Because *"Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free'"* (Jn. 8:31-32 nkjv).

Because Jesus also said: *"Whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—'lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple"* (Lk. 14:27-33 nkjv).

*And: "Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great" (Lk. 6:46-49 nkjv).*

Why do we still witness of Christ's saving Love? Because people who don't live all that long hear on earth can still be rescued by a good God who loves them and died in their place!

It's an honor to be a part of God's worldwide plan. We do this work because it's a great privilege, not to gain points or prove anything! Can you think of a greater privilege? God didn't appoint angels to go evangelize. Our goal is to better worship Jesus Christ 24/7/365 according to God's Word, to properly evangelize the lost with the Gospel and to disciple the saved in a non-manipulative courteous loving manner so that they will in turn will go and do these three things better too ...in Christ. Some Christian cared enough to pray and say something to us when we were in a bad way.

Maybe you are not a real Christian yet? Listen, the good Shepherd is seeking you; the Holy Spirit is shining His light on you; we are pulling for you and God, our heavenly Father has His arms open wide to receive you. Admit it and quit it—I don't care what you've been doing wrong. Turn away from it to Him today. Get home before dark! **Now is the time.** [Come home!](#)